

future. So I—we had the Council of Economic Advisers in there, and I said, “Well, when was the last longest expansion in American history?” And they said, “Mr. President, it was the 1960’s, 1961 to 1969.”

So for those of you who are my age or older, take a walk down memory lane. And for those of you who are younger than me, listen to this. This is a magical moment of opportunity in this country. And most of you are completely immersed in the future and imagining all these possibilities. And so am I.

But when the last longest economic expansion occurred in the 1960’s, I can tell you—I graduated from high school in 1964—we thought it would go on forever. And we thought it was on automatic. We thought—we had low inflation. We had low unemployment. We had high growth. We had a civil rights challenge, but we thought it would be solved in the Congress and the courts, not in the street. We thought we would win the cold war because of our innate and self-evident superiority and never dreamed the country would be divided over Vietnam. We thought it would just happen—1964, when I finished high school.

Within 2 years, there were riots in the streets over civil rights. Within 4 years, when I graduated from college, it was 2 days after Robert Kennedy was killed, 2 months after Martin Luther King was killed, 9 weeks after Lyndon Johnson couldn’t run for reelection because the country was split right down the middle over the war in Vietnam.

A couple months later, President Nixon was elected on a campaign of representing the Silent Majority, which means if you weren’t for him, you were in the loud minority, beginning the construct we saw all the way through the 1980’s, right to the ’92 election, to the ’96 election; that you will see in 2000, where the other party tries to divide the American people between “us” versus “them.” And I’m supposed to be one of “them” because I believe things like we shouldn’t discriminate against gay people, if they’re good, God-fearing, taxpaying citizens and they show up and do their duty. I’m for hate crimes legislation. I’m for the employment non-discrimination legislation. So that

makes me one of “them” instead of one of “us”? I don’t think so.

But that was the portrait of what happened between 1964 and 1968. And within 4 months after that, the longest expansion in American history was history.

And what I want you to know, you young people here, is, I have waited for 35 years for my country to have the chance to build the future of our dreams for our children. And I am determined to see the politics of America focused on, how can we make the most of the sequencing of the human genome? How can we build a different energy future? How can we bring economic opportunity to the people and places that have been left behind? How can we be a force for peace and prosperity and unity in troubled places around the world? How can we build one America? That’s what I think politics is about.

If somebody asks you tomorrow morning why you were here tonight, I hope you’ll give them that answer. This is the best chance you will ever have to build the future of your dreams for your children.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Mark Fox and Jeffrey Arnold, dinner co-hosts; musician Luther Vandross; Edward G. Rendell, general chair, Democratic National Committee; Gov. George W. Bush of Texas; and Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City.

## **Proclamation 7284—Cancer Control Month, 2000**

*March 31, 2000*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

### **A Proclamation**

Since the discovery of the DNA double helix in 1953, we have learned much about the relationship between genetics and cancer, and researchers have begun to isolate and study genes whose alteration and dysfunction may cause the disease. In the last decade, increased understanding of cancer and growing public awareness of its symptoms and risks have helped us to reverse the

upward trend in cancer rates in our Nation. Cancer cases and death rates have declined slightly but steadily in the United States; the 5-year survival rate has improved for all cancers; and 8.4 million Americans are now cancer survivors.

Despite these encouraging trends, this is no time for complacency. Last year alone, more than 1 million people were diagnosed with cancer, and more than 560,000 died from it. And cancer rates are still disproportionately high among certain racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. That is why my Administration remains committed to fighting this deadly disease in every sector of our population. Since 1998, we have boosted investment in biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health by an unprecedented \$4.1 billion, including a dramatic increase in funding for the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the primary Federal cancer research agency.

Early detection and preventative treatment remain the best weapons we have in the battle against this disease, and several promising initiatives at the NCI will improve our effectiveness in both areas. The NCI recently issued a "Director's Challenge" to spur research nationwide into defining key genetic changes that mark tumors as malignant or precancerous. This information will improve the way tumors are classified and lay the groundwork for more precise molecular diagnosis. The NCI is also developing and testing molecular markers specific to certain cancers, as well as working on new technologies to improve detection. This research will help doctors to intervene early, with minimally invasive procedures, to prevent the disease from becoming full-blown.

Another powerful weapon in our crusade is information. Better understanding of risk factors can help people make smarter choices—like quitting smoking or undergoing needed cancer screening. The Cancer Information Service (CIS), a free education service provided by the NCI, acts as the public's link to clear and understandable cancer information. I encourage Americans seeking information on the latest cancer research and treatments to call CIS at 1-800-4-CANCER or to access the NCI directly on the Internet at <http://www.cancer.gov>.

Finally, as we intensify our efforts to fight cancer, we must ensure that no American is left behind. The NCI is working to implement cancer control and prevention programs in minority and underserved communities, as well as to increase minority participation in clinical trials and research. As a result of these efforts, nearly 20 percent of the more than 20,000 patients now entering clinical treatment trials are from an ethnic minority group.

Investment in science and technology produced tremendous progress in health care during the last century. In this new century, we must reaffirm our dedication to the research, information sharing, and access to care that will help us ultimately win the fight against cancer.

In 1938, the Congress of the United States passed a joint resolution (52 Stat. 148; 36 U.S.C. 103) requesting the President to issue an annual proclamation declaring April as "Cancer Control Month."

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim April 2000 as Cancer Control Month. I invite the Governors of the 50 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, and the appropriate officials of all other areas under the American flag to issue similar proclamations. I also call upon health care professionals, private industry, community groups, insurance and managed care companies, and all other interested organizations and individuals to unite in support of our Nation's determined efforts to control cancer.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 4, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 5.

## **Memorandum on Census 2000**

*March 31, 2000*

*Memorandum for All Federal Government Employees*

*Subject: Census 2000*

We as a Nation are participating now in the largest peacetime mobilization in our history. I refer to Census 2000, the twenty-first census we have conducted in this country.

The decennial census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution, and responding to it is a civic responsibility for everyone living in this country. It is a truly universal activity that we can participate in, and full participation is important to the success and progress of every community.

The data collected will determine how more than \$185 billion annually in public funds are shared fairly among the Nation's communities. The data provide the basis for planning and implementing thousands of laws and programs at every level of Government. The census numbers also are used to decide how many seats each State is allocated in the House of Representatives and to equitably draw voting districts at the State and local level.

Census 2000 is an event that offers us an opportunity to engage the spirit of civic participation that is so important to our representative democracy. The census is important to you and your family. It is important to your community. It is important to our Nation. It is in this spirit that I urge all Federal employees to complete their census forms.

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

---

### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

---

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

---

### **March 25**

In the morning, the President traveled from Mumbai, India, to Islamabad, Pakistan.

In the afternoon, the President met with President Rafiq Tarar of Pakistan in the President's Office at the Presidential Palace, and later met with 1999 coup leader Gen. Pervez Musharraf in the Conference Room at the Cabinet Secretariat Building.

In the evening, the President traveled to Muscat, Oman, where he met with Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said in the Sultan's Quarters at the Royal Flight Terminal. Later, the President traveled to Geneva, Switzerland.

### **March 26**

In the afternoon, the President met with President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria in the meeting room at the Intercontinental Hotel. Prior to and following his meeting with President Asad, the President had telephone conversations with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

### **March 27**

The President announced his intention to appoint Don Casey as Vice Chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ralph S. Freedman as a member of the National Cancer Advisory Board.

### **March 28**

The White House announced that the President sent the Congress a FY 2000 supplemental request for \$253 million, which includes funding for the Social Security Administration, aviation safety improvements, and summer jobs for low income youth.

### **March 29**

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Columbia, South Carolina, and in the evening, he traveled to Chappaqua, New York.

### **March 30**

In the morning, the President traveled to New York City, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edward M. Bolen, Geoffrey T.